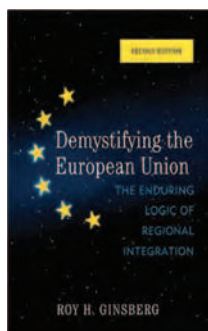


BOOK REVIEW

Demystifying the European Union: The Enduring Logic of Regional Integration (Second Edition)

Reviewer : Hiyal Ulya Fillah
Number of Page : 423 pages
Author : Roy H. Ginsberg
Publisher : Rowman & Littlefield Publishers



As the world's first example of success of interstate reconciliation on a large scale, European Union (EU) is little understood and at times wrongly evaluated by many. The EU is more than a conventional integration organization, it remains a great experiment in international cooperation in a region that was home to the First and Second World Wars. To understand the European Union, requires a panoramic view of European integration that reveals a transformation in the behavior of states toward one another, in which the author sets out to do through this book.

The EU is introduced in this book as a unified construct, then deconstructed into its separate pieces for detailed examination before being reconstructed in a final evaluation. The book is divided into three parts: the first part is about the foundational elements of European integration; the second part explains the contexts, functions, and policies of the EU as a decision making political system or policy, and the third part is concerning the effects of the EU on its member governments and citizens and on the outside world.

On the first part of the book, Ginsberg introduces readers to the history, political thought and theory, economics, and law of modern European Integration. It situates the book where it ought to begin and construct the introductory study of the EU. The EU is perhaps the most complicated system of government in the world, and throughout the book's first part, the reader will begin to see a thumbnail sketch of its major institutions and their functions.

For the second part of the book, Ginsberg places the reader at the intersection of theory and practice. It is served as a medium to apply what the reader have learned of history and theory to the formulation and execution of EU governmental decision making set in the first part. While part one of this book constructed our understanding of the EU on the foundation blocks of history, theory, and law, the second part answers question such as "How does the EU function as a policy where national and European Interests are articulated and aggregated?"

The chapters of the second part deconstruct the EU into key individual elements in order to examine them carefully in relation to one another and to the whole. It features four chapters that build on the model of EU governmental decision making.

The third part of the book reconstruct the EU as a single polity in order to evaluate its effects on its member governments and citizens on the world outside. If the second part reconstruct the pieces of European integration to form a more rounded understanding of what the EU means and how it works, the third part asks and tries to answer a final question regarding the effect of EU, whether the EU have influence or agency to affect its member citizens and government in terms that meet their needs and expectations.

Through this book, Ginsberg is able to challenge the reader to transform assumptions about war and peace, integration and disintegration, and what is possible in this relationships of states to one other. As the author of the book, Roy H. Ginsberg has a clear and comprehensive approach in demystifying one of the world's most important and least understood institution. Reconstructing the EU as a single polity, Ginsberg evaluates the EU's domestic and foreign policies and their effects on Europeans and non-Europeans alike. He is able to point out what the

European Union truly represents: a unique experiment in regional co-operation and a remarkable model of conflict resolution for the world's troubled regions.